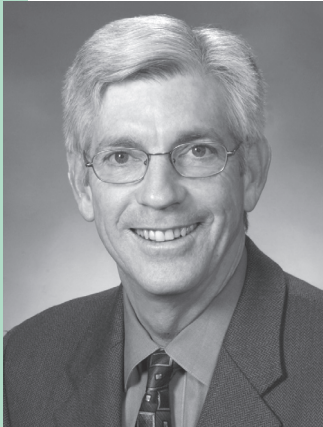


15TH DISTRICT 2008 SESSION PREVIEW



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- State Government & Tribal Affairs
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- Commerce & Labor
(Assistant Ranking Minority Member)
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on
General Government & Audit Review



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Assistant Republican Floor Leader

Committees:

- Select Committee on Environmental
Health (Ranking Minority Member)
- Capital Budget
(Assistant Ranking Minority Member)
- Agriculture & Natural Resources

TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE:
1-800-562-6000

GANG-RELATED CRIME WORK GROUP

We are committed to ending gang-related crimes and putting a stop to the creation of new gangs. The work group on gang-related crime was created last session when Senate Bill 5987, which we supported, was adopted by the Legislature. (Rep. Newhouse sponsored companion measure House Bill



2215.) The work group meets monthly and is tasked with making recommendations to the Legislature for statewide policies to prevent gang crime. The group is made up of legislators, lawyers, local law enforcement, experts in gang and delinquency prevention, prison administrators and probation officers.

Work group members are studying all aspects of gang crime prevention; from penalizing current gang members to preventing younger children from getting involved with gang activities.

We will continue to work with this group and will share the solutions it suggests to the Legislature in January.

Dear Neighbors,

Fall is upon us and we are actively preparing for the 2008 legislative session that begins Jan. 14. One of the most important issues we will tackle is public safety. Safety is not a luxury. Washington citizens have a right to walk through their neighborhoods and drive in their cars without living in fear of gangs or in fear of being hit by a drunk driver.

Another serious concern in our rural communities is the state's water policy. Water rights and access are complicated and frustrating issues for farmers and ranchers, businesses, homeowners and environmental groups in Eastern Washington. The decisions we make on water-related proposals – and the actions we take now – will lay the groundwork for a stronger economy and a brighter future for our district and state.

This newsletter highlights both of these critical issues affecting our region. Please feel free to contact either of us and share your experiences and opinions.

It is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Chandler
State Representative

Dan Newhouse
State Representative



HOLDING FELONS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS

Many in the Legislature have supported a shift in policy that places more emphasis on keeping offenders out of prison, or releasing offenders as early as possible to avoid funding new prison beds.

We believe the primary focus should always be to keep law-abiding citizens safe. Criminals who are not held accountable for their behavior ultimately harm families and businesses.



This year we will continue our fight to strengthen state law to ensure that those who disregard the law are punished for their crimes and think twice about committing the same crime again.

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2006, House Bill 2860, sponsored by Rep. Newhouse, was adopted into law. It directed the Department of Ecology to develop a program that analyzes water supplies in the Columbia River Basin. Since then, several studies and task forces have studied a number of issues such as irrigation efficiencies, groundwater supplies and conservation efforts. We have been following these efforts closely and are disappointed that promises of securing additional water have not yet been fulfilled.



Unfortunately, studies take a long time. In the meantime, water-right holders face droughts and new water right applications remain on hold, such as in White Salmon. We encourage you to remain involved in the process. More information about the water management plan, as well as information on how



you can be involved in the decision-making process can be found on the Ecology Department’s Web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/crwmp.html.

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER STORAGE

Another major component of the Columbia River Basin Water Management Plan includes studying possible water storage locations. Water would be stored during high-flow seasons and then used during low-flow seasons. This is one of the most important components of the water management plan – ensuring everyone has water where they need it, when they need it. We all know there is an abundance of water in the Columbia River Basin; however, during the summer months when competing needs arise there isn’t enough water to go around.



Ecology has narrowed down the water storage list to four possible sites. By January 2008, Ecology expects to have a draft environmental impact statement for the storage study. Reports are due from the Bureau of Reclamation soon.

The location of another water storage site at Black Rock has been studied for five years. We are hopeful the study phase will conclude soon so we can move forward.

We will continue to follow the water studies and programs, and update you on results. We know how important this issue is to you, and we will continue to fight for the things that affect you most.



2008
SESSION
PREVIEW

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